



SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN

E-Hardiman Herald



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce Labor
& Economic Development,
Capitol Outlay,
Higher Education*

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HARDIMAN SUPPORTS POST LABOR DAY START DATE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Michigan parents, students and tourism-related business owners would gain by starting schools after Labor Day under legislation approved by the Senate on Tuesday. Senators approved House Bill 4803, which would require the post-Labor Day start.

“This is a much needed jolt for the tourism industry and the state economy in general” Hardiman said “I was happy to support the initiative”

Starting school after Labor Day would generate an estimated \$10 million more in tourism-related tax revenue for the state. The added tourism also would create an estimated 2,000 new jobs and between \$100 million and \$200 million in economic activity. One recent poll out found that nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters said they supported having schools open after Labor Day, showing widespread public support for the change.

The bill now goes to the Governor to await her signature.

SEN. HARDIMAN’S LEADERSHIP RESULTS IN SAFE, AFFORDABLE ADULT CARE INSTEAD OF ADMINISTRATION UNION-PREFERENCE RULES

Sen. Hardiman led the effort for trustworthy, affordable adult foster care, guaranteeing administration-backed rules that would have favored unionized care providers won’t go into effect if the governor signs the budget.

In the newly passed Michigan Department of Human Services budget, Hardiman’s provision in the budget says that state money can’t be spent on union-preference rules or that the state treat adult-care providers differently based on whether or not they have collective-bargaining agreements.

Under regulations proposed by the administration, a group-home facility would either have to maintain extensive paperwork on employees, hiring and compensation, or it could have simply signed a collective bargaining agreement and be deemed in compliance.

Hardiman said that with today's economic situation, the costs of running adult group homes should be increased under those rules.

"This is a blatant attempt to favor union shops or force others to unionize, and we need to stop it," Hardiman said. "It's bad policy and over-regulation."

The budget of the Human Services Department, formerly called the Family Independence Agency, has been sent to the governor for her consideration.

HARDIMAN FIRST RECIPIENT OF MAMFT FAMILY FRIENDLY LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Senator Hardiman was recently selected by the Michigan Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) to be the first recipient of the "MAMFT Friendly Legislator of the Year Award. His legislative activities both in policy and budget as well as his continued commitment to his community to support health families is highly regarded and recognized by the MAMFT.

The group singled out Hardiman's introduction of Senate Bill 489, which would allow marriage and family therapists to do psychotherapy with people, families, couples or groups as it relates to marital or family relations.

MAMFT president Laura Mohr had this to say at the award presentation, "As a profession dedicated to supporting families, we are delighted to honor Sen. Hardiman and his lifetime achievements strengthening marriages and families in Michigan"

Senator Hardiman received his distinguished award on September 28 at MAMFT's second annual Lobby Day in Lansing.

SENATE EFFORT TO HELP STUDENTS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

Senator Hardiman joined with his colleagues to push through an amendment that would assist school districts in taking in students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The chamber approved an amendment to the state school-aid bill that would allow districts to count evacuated students their per-pupil funding amount.

"The terrible destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina has sparked tremendous outpouring of giving" Hardiman said. "Helping educate hurricane victims who already have lost everything is one way Michigan residents are contributing".

The amendment would allow the Michigan Department of education to include affected students who enroll in a district past the normal count date.

Since Proposal A, Michigan school districts are funded on a "per-pupil" basis meaning the amount of funding each district receives is directly related to the number of students enrolled. Under the amendment, schools will receive funding for displaced students even if they were not enrolled at the time of the fall student count.

Please look for the E-Hardiman Herald Special Edition - Emergency Planning - a look at what our local communities have planned in the event of an emergency

HUNTING SAFETY

As the leaves start to turn, thousands of hunters will take to Michigan's great outdoors. If you plan to hunt this season, remember these basic safety precautions:

- Always have complete control of your weapon.
- Always treat your firearm as if it were loaded.
- Take breaks often to avoid fatigue.
- Always unload your weapon before putting it in your vehicle, house or camp.
- NEVER mix hunting and alcohol.

PLEASE BE SAFE AND ENJOY MICHIGAN'S BEAUTIFUL OUTDOORS!

SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held on the first Monday of each month from 10:00am - 11:30am throughout the 29th district. On Monday, October 3, Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours at Lowell YMCA, 1335 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331

Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- Monday, November 7, 2005, Kentwood Library, 4700 Kalamazoo SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
- Monday, December 5, 2005, Sandy's Donut House, 2040 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak to him about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or e-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours.

Senator Hardiman will have a cell phone collection box available with him when he holds District Office Hours. Again, this donation will go to the victims of domestic violence. If you have a cell phone to donate, please stop by district office hours.

Together we can help the victims of domestic violence, one step at a time

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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